

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6150

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, IR

SUBJ: "VISA"-"VOCATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AGENCY"

REF: STATE 67183 AND PREVIOUS

1. "VISA" PRESIDENT FISHBACK RECENTLY IN TEHRAN. HE PRESENTED CASE IN EFFECTIVE, LOW-KEY MANNER, WITH APPARENT SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE, BUT WITH OBVIOUS AWARENESS ITS FINANCIAL POTENTIAL. FISHBACK INDICATED HE WOULD MARKET PROGRAM THROUGH GOI MINISTRIES AND THROUGH AMERICAN FRIENDS MIDDLE EAST, A RESPONSIBLE CONSELING/ PLACEMENT AGENCY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE WILL ALSO UTILIZE SERVICES OF LOCAL I-20 BROKERS AS WELL.

2. EMB BELIEVES GOI MINISTRIES WILL BE RECEPTIVE TO "VISA" PROGRAM, AS IRAN HAS CONSIDERABLE NEED MIDDLE-LEVEL MANPOWER. FISHBACK BELIEVES SOME "VISA" APPLICANTS WILL GET GOI FUNDING, IN WHICH CASE EMB BELIEVES J-1 VISA MOST APPROPRIATE.

3. FISHBACK APPEARED UNAWARE WEAKNESS VAST MAJORITY IRANIAN STUDENTS IN ENGLISH, UNAWARE THAT MOST WOULD HAVE TO SPEND SEVERAL MONTHS TO A YEAR IN ENGLISH LANG SCHOOL PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT IN TECHNICAL TRAINING SCHOOLS. ALMOST NO I-20'S COULD BE ISSUED FOR DIRECT ENROLLMENT IN TECH SCHOOLS, ULTIMATE ENROLLMENT IN TECH SCHOOLS CLEARLY PROBLEMATIC. EMB EXPERIENCE WITH IRANIAN F-1'S INDICATES MANY WILL BECOME DISCOURAGED IN LANGUAGE SCHOOL, DROP OUT, ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT, THEN SEEK MARRIAGEABLE AMCIT WHEN

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VIOLATION OF STATUS DISCOVERED.

4. MAY "VISA" APPLICANTS, AS GRADUATES OF LOW-POWERED TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS HERE, MAY IN FACT BE EVEN LESS WELL PREPARED THAN NORMAL ACADEMIC F-1'S. BECAUSE TECH HIGH SCHOOLS GENERALLY GRADE MUCH MORE LIBERALLY THAN MOST ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOLS, EMB BELIEVES IT WILL HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY IN EVALUATING THEIR EDUCATIONAL CREDENTIALS.

5. EMB HAS NOTED A FEATURE ARTICLE ON "VISA" IN BEIRUT STAR (APRIL 7, 1974), IN WHICH THE REPORTER WRITES "...THE ORGANIZATION HAS AFFILIATIONS WITH THE US STATE DEPARTMENT, AND THE AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN EACH COUNTRY FISHBACK VISITS ARE PRIME PORTS OF CALL." EMB BELIEVES THAT BROCHURE IN RED, WHITE AND BLUE, WITH APPARENT USG SEAL ON COVER, SUBSTITUTION OF WORD "AGENCY" FOR "ASSOCIATION" IN ORGANIZATION'S NAME, AND ARTICLES SUCH AS NOTED ABOVE TEND GIVE APPEARANCE OF DEPT SPONSORSHIP OF AND/OR AFFILIATION WITH "VISA".
HELMS

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